An instance of the kind was found by Dr. Huntington in part of a Brenham pallasite in the Harvard University Museum, and was illustrated in Plate III. of his above-cited paper. The scientific and exhibitional value of the Brenham pallasites is shown by the fact that, while the total "fall" was scattered over an area of about a half mile by two miles, and aggregated well toward a ton in weight, the largest specimen offered in the 1907 price-list of one of the largest firms in America dealing in meteorites, weighs less than five and a half pounds, and is listed at $150.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

Harvard University has received the sum of $15,000 from Mrs. James Augustus Rumrill, of Springfield, in memory of her husband, who received his degree of A.B. from the university in 1859. It is to be used to establish three scholarships for southern students.

While the British are reorganizing the College of Medicine and the Technical Institute at Hong Kong into a university, the Germans have established a school of university grade at Kiao-chau. It is said that the German government has appropriated $160,000 for its establishment and will contribute $50,000 annually for the support of the institution.

It is proposed to reorganize the schools of higher education of Algiers into a university.

The Tulane University of Louisiana during the past year has come into possession of the following amounts: Two million eight hundred dollars from the Newcomb estate. This goes to the Newcomb College—the woman's department of the University—founded by Mrs. Josephine Louise Newcomb as a memorial to her daughter, and to which Mrs. Newcomb before her death gave about one million dollars. Mrs. Ida A. Richardson has made a donation of $50,000 to the university towards the establishment of a chair of botany. By the will of Miss Linda Miles, who died recently in Washington, D. C., the university library is the recipient of $5,000 to purchase books. The following persons have been added to the scientific departments of the university for the session of 1909–10: Charles K. Burdick, New York City, professor of law; Irving Hardesty, Ph.D., University of California, professor of anatomy; Henry W. Stiles, University of Michigan, assistant professor of anatomy; H. Hays Bullard, University of Missouri, instructor in anatomy; D. F. MacDonald, University of Chicago and U. S. Geological Survey, assistant demonstrator in chemistry and geology; J. G. Gage, assistant in clinical medicine.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

"MARS AS THE ABODE OF LIFE"

The recent letters in Science on the geologic facts in "Mars as the Abode of Life" have an origin which readers of Science should have the opportunity to know. The geologic facts in "Mars as the Abode of Life" are taken from recognized sources, chiefly Dana, Geikie, Dr. Lapparent and recent research; only the weaving together is new. They are not *res gratae* to certain geologists because they clash with a new cosmogeny devised by the Chicago geologist, Professor Chamberlin, who associated with himself for the mechanical and mathematical proof of it, on which all such hypotheses must rest, the assistant professor of astronomy of his university, Professor Moulton. It becomes pertinent, therefore, to consider the basis of their belief which is necessarily astronomic. From the latter writer's exposition of the hypothesis given in most detail in his "Introduction to Astronomy," we shall now quote.

We shall begin with a statement on page 380, which in itself is sufficient to render the reader cautious when he finds himself adventured later upon the exposition. It is with regard to the speed of meteors when they strike the earth. It runs as follows:

> Let us assume provisionally that the meteors are moving around the sun in sensibly parabolic orbits, like the orbits of the comets, and let us find the greatest and least velocities with which they can encounter the earth's atmosphere. If it were not for the earth's attraction they would pass the earth's orbit at the rate of twenty-five miles per second, the velocity being independent of the angle at which they crossed. The earth's